



## Tetra Tech EM Inc.

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September 28, 1998

Ms. Gayle Hubert  
Technical Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7  
726 Minnesota Avenue  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

**Subject: Background Summary Report for the Former General Electric Company Facility,  
West Burlington, Iowa Contract Number 68-W4-0004, Work Assignment Number  
R07040**

Dear Ms. Hubert:

In partial fulfillment of the tasks identified in revised Technical Directive Number 62 for the above-referenced work assignment, Tetra Tech EM Inc. (Tetra Tech), is submitting this brief background summary that reviews activities at the former General Electric Company facility (GE) (EPA ID No. IAD005272703/IAD000678037) located in West Burlington, Iowa.

This summary was prepared after reviewing documents available in the files of the Environmental Protection Agency, including all corrective action submittals, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation report, associated work plans, letters of approval or modification, and the Administrative Order.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this brief background summary, please contact me at (913) 495-3907, or Mr. Ted Faile (913) 495-3910.

Sincerely,

Bryce Tobyne  
Project Manager

Enclosure

cc: Ken Herstowski, EPA Work Assignment Manager  
Aaron Zimmerman, EPA (letter only)  
Kathy Homer, Tetra Tech (letter only)  
Pat Reed, Tetra Tech (letter only)



R00107066  
RCRA RECORDS CENTER

## **BACKGROUND SUMMARY REPORT**

### **Former General Electric Company Facility West Burlington, Iowa**

Tetra Tech EM Inc. (Tetra Tech), has reviewed the available records in the facility file in order to prepare this background summary report as requested in revised Technical Directive Number 62, dated July 23, 1998. The facility is the former General Electric Company (GE) facility (IAD005272703/IAD000678037) located in West Burlington, Iowa. The facility file contained corrective action submittals, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) report, work plans, letters of approval or modification, and the Administrative Order.

This background summary report includes a review of the facility history, corrective action activities already completed, and the current status of corrective action activities.

### **BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

From approximately September 1974 until January 1986, GE manufactured medium-voltage switch gear and switchboard apparatus in two facility buildings at the site. Operations included painting and degreasing operations that generated waste containing, at a minimum, xylene, methyl isobutyl ketone, toluene, methyl ethyl ketone, and 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA).

The wastes were stored in containers within a fenced concrete pad area on the north end of Building No.3. In August 1980, the facility submitted a Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and in November 1980, it submitted a Part A Hazardous Waste Permit Application. In March 1984, the facility requested that interim status for the hazardous waste container storage area be terminated.

The first soil samples were collected in July through October 1985 as part of closure activities. The maximum contamination found was 8.8 parts per million (ppm) of 1,1,1-TCA. GE hired a consultant to assist with closure after a review of the sample results. Fehr-Graham and Associates was retained and additional sampling was completed in March 1986 through February 1987. Results indicated 1,1,1-TCA concentrations of 7.8 ppm or less. The highest concentrations were found next to the north end of the

building and under the adjacent footings.

In July 1986, the EPA approved the closure plan. Remedial action began in September 1986 and entailed the removal of 1,543 cubic yards of soil, that was disposed of off site. Removal was completed in November 1986.

Subsequent to soil removal, further soil borings were completed. Solvents continued to be detected beneath the floor and around the footings of Building No.3. Contamination was found primarily in soil within 25 feet of ground surface in areas north of Building No.3 and to the north property boundary. From December 1987 through March 1989, Beak Consultants completed a 3-phased hydrogeologic investigation. EPA concluded from review of the Beak reports that the hydrogeologic investigation did not adequately demonstrate that corrective action was not necessary.

In the Administrative Order on Consent (Consent Order) of September 28, 1990, the site was required to complete an RFI consisting of Tasks I through VII, and a corrective measures study (CMS) consisting of Tasks VIII through XI. The RFI concluded that one or more groundwater samples contained contaminants at concentrations greater than the maximum contaminant levels (MCL), and that the migration velocity in the groundwater is 1 to 15.5 feet per year in a lateral direction. According to the RFI, the groundwater discharges into the creek on the northern side of the site, and that contaminants volatilize out of the water at this point. Contaminants were not detected in the surface water at 250 feet from the facility.

Table 1 lists the tasks described in the Consent Order and the current status of each task. The draft CMS has been submitted for comments. Comments on this document can be found in letters to be submitted by Tetra Tech for revised Technical Directive Number 62, due October 30, 1998.

**TABLE 1**  
**RFI AND CMS TASK DEFINITION AND STATUS**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Date</b>
I	Description of Current Conditions	Completed and approved	Beak 1992
II	Pre-investigation of Corrective Measure Technologies	Completed and approved	Beak 1992
III	RFI Work Plan	Completed and approved	
IV	Facility Investigation	RFI report completed and approved	Beak 1997
V	Investigation Analysis	RFI report completed and approved	Beak 1997
VI	Laboratory and Bench-Scale Studies	Not completed per RFI report page 1.1	Beak 1997
VII	Reports	RFI Report completed and approved	Beak 1997
VIII	Identification and Development of the Corrective Measure Alternatives	Draft CMS submitted for comment	Beak 1998
IX	Evaluation of the Corrective Measure Alternatives	Draft CMS submitted for comment	Beak 1998
X	Justification and Recommendation of the Corrective Measures	Draft CMS submitted for comment	Beak 1998
XI	Reports	Draft CMS submitted for comment	Beak 1998